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I.  
*Account of the Treatment of Gangrenous Sore Throat, principally by Gargles of Infusion of Red Pepper. In a Letter to one of the Editors of the North American Med. and Surg. Journal.*

By ALBAN G. SMITH, M.D., of Danville, Kentucky.

I RECENTLY took up your last Journal, in which I saw a paper by Dr. Beesley on what he calls gangrene of the throat, but what I call putrid sore throat; and as he, very properly, has given the result of his experience in his own cases, I have concluded that it would be wrong for me to withhold the result of my experience in some hundreds. My first case occurred in the son of a Mr. G., near this place, a boy about five years of age. His mother sent for me and told me that he complained of difficulty of deglutition, and a pain in the ear. On examining the tonsils, I found a white ulcer on each, about the size of a  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cent piece. I treated the case with calomel and rhubarb as a cathartic, and finding considerable difficulty in opening the bowels, at the suggestion of the mother, I used a solution of salt of tartar, which had a very happy effect. In a day or two the ulcers turned to an ash color. I used the red pepper, salt, and vinegar, as directed in Thomas's Practice, but

used it merely as a gargle, injecting it into the fauces with a small syringe. This practice being continued a few days, the sloughs fell off, and he got well.

The next case was my own son, and about the same age. His mother observed that he had high fever at night; I told her to give him a dose of calomel, and being very busily engaged in practice, I heard nothing more of it for two or three days, when his mother told me that he had passed a very restless night, his fever being very high, and had said that his ear hurt him. On examining him, I discovered that his breath was offensive, having the mercurial smell, and I concluded that he was salivated by the dose of calomel I had given; but in the course of the day I discovered some anxiety of countenance and difficulty of breathing, and on examining the tonsils, I found large green ulcers on them. I then gave him an emetic of Coxe's hives syrup. After he had vomited two or three times, I discovered a change; his countenance lost that anxious appearance, his pulse became more frequent, and a general prostration ensued; the ulcers became darker colored, and a sore that he had on his hand assumed the same color. Notwithstanding I used a great variety of tonics and gargles, the case proved fatal in few days. It was with great difficulty that I could give any remedy a fair trial,

for it was almost impossible to get him to take anything: I had to force his mouth open with a knife-handle every time I gave anything, to the serious injury of his teeth, so determined was he to take nothing.

I was in a few days called to several cases. Two were in one family. One, a white child of light complexion and very fat, died in twelve hours after the disease was first discovered. I concluded I would give the red pepper tea, salt and vinegar a fair trial: I accordingly directed it to be made very strong, and a tablespoonful given every hour, the dose to be augmented if the child did not swallow the whole of it, and, where the case was very bad, to be given every half hour. At the same time I directed a dose of calomel, and kept the bowels open afterwards with rhubarb and salt of tartar. After this I scarcely lost a case. Sometimes, where I was afraid of the purgative effects of calomel, I used a spirituous solution of corrosive sublimate, as an alterative; and although I have been frequently prevailed on to use other remedies, I have never found any that I could rely upon but the red pepper, &c., and the calomel, rhubarb and salt of tartar.

While I was attending to a case of fever, some time since, a young gentleman in the house informed me, that in the night he was taken with a fever and a kind of dryness in his throat. On examination, I found, in the upper part of the pharynx, a large black ulcer. I directed him to take a small wine-glassful of the infusion of red pepper, &c., every half hour, with a dose of salts; and in eight hours, when I returned, I examined the ulcer; it had lost its slough and

looked red, and it got well in a few days. I have seen a great many cases where, after the sloughs began to come off, they would be coughed up in bits as large as a man's thumb; and in some cases it would be six months before the child could articulate distinctly. I have been called in consultation several times, and every case that was blistered before I saw it, terminated fatally, the blister turning black with the ulcers. In many of the cases that I have seen, there has been some pustule containing matter, sometimes on the under lip or chin, sometimes on the hands; and one can tell the color of the ulcer by the color of that, as well as by examining the throat. In children that are very fat, of light or sandy complexion, the disease runs its course very rapidly, and is more apt to be fatal. I have seen many cases lost by parents and physicians supposing it to be croup, and using emetics too long. I have seen many cases where the child would run about, and not appear, to a common observer, to be ill until a few minutes before death. It generally goes through the family of children. I think that in white children it is more fatal than among black. Since my son died, which has been seven years, my children have been remarkably subject to it; my wife says we have had upwards of twenty cases, some of them very bad, in our own family.

I generally direct ten or twelve pods of red pepper to be cut and put into a pint cup, and enough hot water poured on them to fill the cup half full; let it stand a few minutes, then add a tablespoon heaped full of salt, and fill up the cup with strong vinegar. There are sometimes cases where the

throat is much swelled on the outside ; in those cases I have found it best to repeat the calomel more frequently ; and I have frequently given emetics of blue vitriol with advantage. I prefer calomel in small doses ; for every case that I have met with, where purgatives or emetics have been used extensively, has proved fatal. Since the first season that this disease prevailed in this country, it has been quite common every year, but was scarcely known before.

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## II.

### LITHOTRITY.

The Editor of the London Medical Gazette has given his readers a circumstantial history of the Lithotritic process, which is now practised by many of the ablest Surgeons in Europe.—The following remarks are extracted from this history :—

A SHORT review of the history of this process may not be uninteresting : its origin is curious. It is not one of those valuable accessions to science and the public good, resulting, like those of Watt or Davy, from direct reasoning, or a wise adaptation of means to the end; nor was it immediately hit upon by a lucky accident. It occupied no portion of the thoughts even of its inventor, when he began the course of experiments which eventually terminated in its contrivance. His first design was to destroy the stone by a re-agent,—a plan which had often before been attempted without success ; but in endeavoring to accomplish his purpose, two difficulties arrested him : first, the danger of injuring the bladder by the chemical solvents which he should employ ; and, second, his

ignorance of the chemical composition of the material on which he was to act. In order to overcome the former, M. Civiale thought of introducing a purse into the bladder, by means of a tube, through which, on securing the stone in the purse, he was to pour in his powerful solvents. But where was such a purse to be had ? It should be as wonderful in its properties as that of Fortunatus,—it should be fine and flexible, and delicate and capacious : and, at the same time, perfectly proof against strong chemical agents. Here was a difficulty indeed ;—no substance in the animal, vegetable or mineral kingdom, seemed adequate to the purpose, and the project was consequently abandoned. Yet the artist was not discouraged by his failure: fortunately he proceeded to combat with the second obstacle. As it was requisite to procure a specimen of the stone, it was obviously necessary to introduce some instrument that should break off a portion of it, without wounding the bladder. Having reason to think that it was not impossible to pass a straight sound, four lines or more in diameter, through the urethra, he made repeated trials, and ultimately convinced himself that it was perfectly practicable. On this principle his earliest instruments were constructed.

It is curious to observe that M. Civiale all this time never entertained any other object in his experiments, than simply to procure the specimen for which he was so anxious ; and that the idea of lithotripsy, or grinding the stone to pieces, did not once occur to him, until he found himself obliged to give up his favorite project of the purse.

We need not enter into a detail

of the successive changes and improvements which the ingenious inventor adopted in bringing his instruments to their present state of comparative simplicity and perfection; we shall merely observe that the six elastic branches originally employed are now reduced to three, and that the *lithotriteur*, or perforator, in all ordinary cases, is armed with teeth, which are set to work on the calculus by means of a drill. In ten or fifteen minutes an expert operator demolishes a stone of the common size,—that is to say, one of about 18 or 20 lines in diameter.

One very obvious advantage of the new method we must not pass unnoticed. It is well known that persons afflicted with calculus, alarmed at the danger of being cut, procrastinate and put off the evil day, and endure, for years together, the most exquisite torture, rather than submit to the knife; while the stone, meantime, is acquiring additional bulk and complexity of character. All this, we suspect, will be materially altered when the new process comes to be better known: patients will have recourse to it in an earlier stage of the complaint, and their cure will, of course, be proportionably easy.

The objections made to this method are met by the following answers:—1. The introduction of *straight* sounds is no longer debatable: experience, both ancient and modern, has proved it practicable beyond a question; and it is demonstrable *a priori* from a knowledge of the structure and direction of the urethra.\* 2. The expansive property of that

passage very soon permits the introduction of straight tubes,—three, four, or even five lines in diameter. 3. The pain is, in general, very inconsiderable; and where it proves severe, this is dependent on disease of the bladder or neighboring parts: nervous excitement there may certainly be in many cases; but if these objections have any force against lithotripsy, they apply still more strongly to lithotomy. 4. The treatment is not tedious; and even if it were, perhaps many would think it preferable to be under the hands of a lithotritist for two months, than for two minutes under the knife of the most expert lithotomist. 5. On the supposition that the operator is competent (as should always be supposed in every operation), there is no danger in the process of lithotripsy: an awkward operator, indeed, might do mischief through a want of address; but the same objection might be made even to phlebotomy itself, which in unskillful hands has been productive, as every body knows, of very grievous consequences. Nor is there better ground for other objections, such as alleged chronic inflammations of the urethra or bladder, &c., leaving behind pieces of stone, or other calculi untouched: such charges should be matter for testimony, but they have never been supported by either facts or experience.

Le Roy, Heurteloup, Amussat, and others, have, from time to time, suggested alterations and additions, by way of improvement, in the lithotritic apparatus; but the instruments employed by Civiale appear to us to be the most simple, and we are great admirers of simplicity in the construc-

\* See Amussat's Memoir on the practicability of effacing the curvature of the urethra by straight sounds.

tion of surgical apparatus. The march of improvement, it may be observed, has ever been from what is more complicated to what is less so;—nature herself is the mother of simplicity.

In conclusion, we think our readers will agree with us, that the ingenious contrivance of M. Civiale is deserving of approbation. Our French friends, in the characteristic style of compliment, have pronounced it ‘glorieuse pour la chirurgie Francaise, honorable pour son auteur, et consonante pour l’humanité.’ It may be equally characteristic (perhaps national) in us, not to be dazzled with the glory of the invention; but we are not, at the same time, blind to its merits. With all due respect for the Academy of Sciences, and for the names of Chaussier and Percy, we cannot elevate ourselves to raptures. We are, in plain terms, disposed to qualify our meed of praise from the consideration of one or two circumstances. It is to be observed, in the first instance, that the lithotritic process is available in none but cases in which the stone does not exceed a certain bulk; and this is allowing much, as, in fact, it is admitting it to be available in all ordinary cases. Its machinery, however, is so complicated, compared with the simple instruments commonly employed in lithotomy (now reduced almost to the *prisca simplicitas* of the *apparatus minor*), that our anticipations, we must confess, are considerably damped; and, indeed, some of the instruments which we have seen appeared not altogether free from the risk of portions of them breaking off during the process of grind-

ing the stone, and thus remaining in the bladder. The success of the operation, besides, mainly depends on the extreme familiarity of the operator with his instruments; though much of this objection will be removed, no doubt, when the process is better understood. The manipulation is so different from that required in ordinary operations, that our most experienced surgeons will feel some awkwardness when they first attempt it; and we have heard that M. Dupuytren made trial of it in the Hotel Dieu without being successful. Any decided opinion, indeed, must be given cautiously: it bears upon it the fascinating stamp of novelty; it promises a great good, but it has yet to undergo the rigid test of time. Claims it unquestionably has, and strong ones too, upon our notice; and we are happy to find that it is being tried in our hospitals, where its merits will soon be put beyond dispute.

We have spoken of M. Civiale, throughout these remarks, as the true inventor of lithotripsy: such is our persuasion. He was indisputably the first who made known to the public the possibility of performing such an operation; whether he was the first who *thought* of its feasibility we will not decide: but be it remembered that it was not until he had *published* his experiments, that other competitors for the honor of the invention made their appearance. We cannot stay to moralize on the fate of most originators of useful projects; but we suspect that M. Civiale must be content to await tranquilly, though confidently, a tardy decision upon his claims.

## III.

## ON CARBONATE OF AMMONIA.

By DANIEL B. SMITH.

THE volatility of this salt renders it extremely difficult to preserve uninjured in vessels that are occasionally opened to the air. When in its perfect state, it is composed of one atom or twenty-two parts of carbonic acid, and one atom or seventeen parts of ammonia. There is, besides this salt, another combination of carbonic acid and ammonia, containing two atoms of acid, or forty-four parts, and one atom, or seventeen parts of alkali. This salt, which is the bicarbonate, has no smell and less taste than the carbonate. It is formed when the latter salt is exposed in powder to the air. The carbonate of ammonia of commerce is now obtained, in great part, from the tarry liquid obtained in the distillation of coal gas. It is sublimed in moderately hard semi-transparent cakes, which are brittle and white. By exposure to the air, part of the alkali soon escapes; it loses its strong smell of ammonia, and is gradually converted into the inodorous bicarbonate. So rapid is the progress of this change, that it is seldom we meet with the article in our shops which is not more or less injured by it. The first sign of the loss of alkali, is the efflorescence on the surface, which gradually extends till the whole crystalline mass is altered. It is from this cause that we have so much difficulty in pleasing those who are particular about the quality of their "smelling salts."

A preparation, called "the Preston smelling salts," has within a few years been introduced

from England, and has deservedly been much sought after. The manufacturers have wisely put it up in very wide-mouthed bottles, which enable one to inhale a much larger quantity of ammonia at once, and thus increase the apparent strength of the salt. But it has other qualities to recommend it, than the manner in which it is put up for sale. It retains its color for a longer time and wastes more slowly than the common smelling salts.

It was generally believed, when the article was first brought here, that its superiority was owing to the sublimation being made at once into the bottle, so as to avoid any loss of ammonia by unnecessary exposure to the air. An examination, however, will satisfy any one that the salt is *crystallized*, and not sublimed. The superior compactness and hardness of a crystalline over a sublimed salt, are great advantages in so volatile a substance as the carbonate of ammonia; and to this, I have no doubt, the good qualities of the Preston salts are to be attributed.

The salt may be crystallized with great facility in the winter season. The plan which I have followed is to dissolve, in a pint of pure aqua ammonia, a pound and a quarter of the crystalline carbonate of ammonia, with a gentle heat.

By exposing this to a freezing temperature, crystals of the carbonate of ammonia will be obtained, the size and hardness of which will depend on the length of time which they require to crystallize. I use the aqua ammonia as a solvent to secure the formation of salt with the minimum of acid.

I recommend to those apothecaries

caries who wish to procure an excellent carbonate of ammonia, respects equal to the Preston smelling salts, at one-eighth of to adopt this process, which will the price which the latter costs furnish them with a salt in all us.

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BOSTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1829.

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**DELIRIUM TREMENS.—MEDICAL JURISPRUDENCE.**

DR. DRAKE, of the Western Journal, mentions a late trial before the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio, of an individual about fifty years of age, and the father of a large family, who, during an attack of delirium tremens, had murdered his own wife, by cutting through her neck with a narrow axe, which severed the spinal column and caused instant death.

"It appeared from the testimony," says Dr. D., "that for several years he had been subject to occasional fits of intoxication, which in the latter part of the time had been followed by *Mania a potu*, which generally lasted for several days, and went off spontaneously. In these paroxysms he had the physical and moral symptoms which usually characterize that malady. The former were, great tremors of the hands, a pale face, red eyes, and sometimes a copious perspiration, even when exposed half naked to a cold atmosphere. The moral phenomena were, disordered perceptions of sight and hearing, so that he often insisted that he saw himself surrounded by snakes and other reptiles, or by armed men who sought to kill him; or supposed he heard strange sounds of trumpets, or vocal music, or conversation of which he was the subject, and the object of which was mischief to himself. He was thus filled with apprehension for his safety, and sometimes ran about the village at night, as if attempting to escape from bad persons who were pursuing him. On a

certain night, he made so much clamor as to excite the idea of several men engaged in a riot. At another time, in his own house, he concealed himself between the feather and the straw bed, where he was almost suffocated. On another occasion, he was found, after dark, standing in the street without shoes or hat, and had described around him a circle in the dust, and declared that if any one entered it, that person would kill him. At other times he would peep from his window, and point his gun, as for defence, against imaginary persons, who were approaching to seize him. Again, he would fancy that two armies were engaged in battle, and that he must join one of them. In all his paroxysms he had so great a degree of watchfulness, as to sleep little or none for several nights in succession. But his prevailing maniacal conception was, that his wife was in a combination with three of his neighbors, one of whom was his son by a former wife, and that they had conspired against his life. Of these men, when they were not in his presence, he was afraid. In the paroxysms he was accustomed to charge his wife (unfoundedly in the opinion of witnesses) with a criminal intimacy with these persons. He even threatened to kill her if she did not desist, and had been heard to utter this threat when he was thought by one of the witnesses to be rational.

"On the Sunday before the murder he drank freely, and was intoxicated, in which condition, as usual, he was quiet, dull, and disposed to lie in bed. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday presented nothing special. On Wednesday evening he

complained to a neighbor of feeling unwell, and asked his son's assistance in the performance of some necessary manual labor for his family. He seemed to the witness to be rational. During the night he slept none, and complained of cramp in his stomach. The next morning his family thought him crazy, but were not alarmed, as they were accustomed to such attacks. In the course of the day he took an axe on his shoulder, and walked rapidly to the house of a neighbor, whom he desired to go home with him, saying they wanted to kill him; and about the same time he told another of the supposed conspirators that he had overheard his wife and him, that morning, whispering about taking his (witness's) life.

"He spent the day at home, in the midst of his family, apparently in agitation and terror, but said he would not hurt any one, and did not wish to be hurt. In addition to the axe, which he placed under the bed, where it was often kept, he provided a scythe, which he brought into the house. He manifested jealousy of his wife, and told her to act better, for she had already caused the death of thirty thousand men. He fancied that the persons of whom he was jealous were in the loft manufacturing ropes to hang him, and going up, returned and said he had cut the ropes to pieces, and brought down the fragments with him, though he had nothing in his hands. In the course of the afternoon, he fastened both the doors of his house. At the usual time his wife went out to milk, and he barred the door after her. On her return he fastened it again. She was seated near the fire, and he was walking the room. At length he took the axe from under the bed, and suddenly gave the fatal blow, following it up with two others on the face. His oldest daughter caught the instrument, which he yielded up, and then seized the scythe, with which he attempted to strike her. She defended herself with a chair,

till the smaller children having opened the door, she made her escape. He took his youngest child in his arms, and sat down by the window. The child exclaimed, 'mamma bleeds!' which he said made him feel bad. When his neighbors arrived immediately afterwards, he gave himself up, acknowledged what he had done, said he knew he would be hung for it, but that he ought to have done it nine months sooner; and that if he had it to do again, he would strike two blows where he only struck one. Talked so rationally that many of the witnesses could not believe him deranged. Evinced no dread of punishment for his crime, but was still in great apprehension from the persons who, he had believed, intended to kill him. Was glad that he had defeated their calculations. On his way to the city to be committed to jail, talked rationally and composedly about his affairs, and on various subjects; but frequently asked the guard if they did not hear sweet sounds of different kinds, and on being answered in the negative, insisted that he could not be mistaken. After being committed he became regular, and expressed his regret at what he had done."

The defence set up was insanity. He was, however, found guilty of murder, and condemned accordingly. We shall not attempt to follow Dr. Drake in his excellent remarks on this case; but present to our readers such a view of the subject as has been suggested to us by the perusal of them, and by such other inquiries as we have been enabled to make.

The law which holds the madman exempt from the punishment of crimes committed under the influence of his derangement, is obviously founded in reason and humanity. This immunity, however, does not, according to the common law, extend

to the drunken man who commits a crime while under the excitement of liquor. There are several reasons for the severity of the law on this point, some of which respect the criminality of the evil doer, and others have a principal reference to the security of the public. We will endeavor to present these to our readers in a distinct form.

1. Drunkenness is itself a crime, and he who alleges it as an excuse, attempts to take advantage of his own wrong. "The law," says Blackstone, "will not suffer any man to privilege one crime by another." The language of Lord Coke on this point is still stronger. "The drunkard," says he, "is voluntarius dæmon, and whatever ill he doth, his drunkenness shall aggravate it. *Nam omne crimen ebrietatis et incendit et detegit.*"

2. The drunkard deprives himself of reason, knowing that when so deprived, he is liable to commit violence on the persons of others. The first crime, therefore, includes the consequences which result from it. Such is the language of the Roman law:—"Culpâ non parent, quod inebriari se passi sint." And again:—"Quid quod nec dolo parent,"—they cannot even be acquitted of evil intention,—"si non simplicite rebrii, id est tales, qui præter consuetudinem vino capti sunt, dum suas aut vini vires ignorabant, aut inviti compellebantur cum strenuis paria bibendo facere; sed vel ebriosi, qui ignari non sunt quo ruere soleant vino victi, vel etiam insolentes, qui hanc ob causam largius bibunt, ut audentius in injuriam eant."—*Voet in Pandectas XLVIII. 10. 1.*

3. If the law were otherwise, drunkenness might be pretended, in order to commit crime with impunity, and a fraud of this nature could not, without great difficulty, be detected.

4. The same state might voluntarily be incurred, for the double purpose of exciting the courage to commit a crime, and of escaping its penalties; and thus the hardened villain would be furnished with direct means to elude justice. Such is the character of the wretches described by the author above quoted; "insolentes, qui hanc ob causam largius bibunt, ut audacius in injuriam eant."

Two general propositions, then, are involved in the law on this subject:—1. That in using liquor to excess, knowing its possible consequences, the drunkard makes himself answerable for these consequences.

2. That the public welfare requires that he should be held thus answerable. We have then to consider the correctness of these principles in themselves, and their application to the case of *delirium tremens*.

1. If it be true, then, that he who indulges in liquor makes himself responsible for all its effects, the maniac a potu can no more claim immunity, than he who acts under the immediate influence of intoxication. We cannot escape this conclusion by saying, that the *delirium* in question is a remote and distinct effect of the indulgence; that it occurs as the sequel of long-continued and repeated excess; or that it often, nay generally, happens in consequence of withdrawing the very stimulus to which the drunkard is accustomed. It is still among the effects of this vice; an evil which subsists in virtue of

intemperance, and which would not subsist without it. If, then, in the phrenzy of his delirium, the unfortunate subject of it commits murder, this too was among those possible consequences of his original excess, for which he made himself responsible. But is it not obvious that this mode of reasoning proves too much? Suppose the drunkard to have passed through the successive paroxysms of ebriety, and even the short-lived mania of delirium tremens, without committing any serious act of violence on the persons of his fellow-men. A darker doom now awaits him. The repeated shocks which his reason has received have finally overpowered it. He becomes permanently insane, and while in this state, commits an outrage on the person, or takes the life, of some one unhappily exposed to his fury. Would it be said that the action was not excused by his insanity, because he brought that insanity on himself? Such an argument never could be listened to with patience, either within a court of justice or without it. By the late reports of madhouses in England, it will be seen, that a very considerable proportion of their inmates have become so from this indulgence. All these, then, are moral agents, and responsible for the crimes they perpetrate. Nor is this all. The victim of gaming, of debauchery, of unnatural crime, are equally in this sense the authors of their own misfortunes; and shall we add to this the imputation of guilt, when their phrenzy has inspired them to the commission of acts, in their nature violent and unlawful? We

freely confess that such a sentiment seems to us to violate the plainest dictates of humanity, and we are not aware that it is sanctioned by the laws of any civilized nation.

2. Are the considerations of expediency, on which the drunken man is made responsible, equally applicable to the subject of mania a potu? The reasons for the law, arising out of these considerations, are, as above mentioned, the ease with which drunkenness may be simulated, and the possibility of its being actually induced for the sake of committing crime. Neither of these reasons has any application to the case of delirium tremens. With regard to the first, we venture to assert, that there is no form of mania, the counterfeiting of which is attended with more serious difficulty than the one in question. It is a disease induced by peculiar causes, and accompanied and marked by appropriate symptoms, some of which it is utterly impossible to simulate. It is a disease which comes on slowly, with gradually increasing violence, until it arrives at its acme, which often does not happen for many days. The task of one who should attempt to counterfeit its gradual progress and its eventual paroxysm, is beyond almost any effort of deception which the mind can conceive. To suppose, then, that it would be feigned by one intending to commit an outrage, as the most convenient means of doing so with impunity, is utterly extravagant. As respects the second reason, we hold it still less applicable to the case under consideration. This state could not be induced at

the will of the intentional criminal; nor if it could, and the zeal of the individual was sufficient to induce him to hazard his life in such a project, could it be subjected to his control, and made subservient to his views. The notion of *design*, therefore, in its production, is entirely too absurd for serious refutation.

But if it is said we must *prove* the maniac a potu to have been actually insane, in order to entitle him to the consideration claimed, the demand is unquestionably reasonable and just. Whether the prisoner was or was not so, in any particular case, is matter of evidence, and must be decided by proper testimony. In regard to this point, there is an important distinction, which has been often made, and which is laid down with sufficient precision by Dr. Drake. Unless it appear in evidence by the actions of the prisoner, that in regard to a particular subject or train of ideas, his reason was actually perverted, and farther, that the murder, or other outrage, was the consequence of this particular perversion,—was committed in accordance with the false premises and erroneous notions thus adopted,—unless both these points were clearly made out, he should be held guilty. On all but the particular subjects of his phrenzy, the maniac is a moral agent, and responsible to the laws; and if he perpetrates a criminal action, aware of its nature, and conscious of the outrage he commits, he makes himself a subject for the penalty of these laws.

We would add one remark, which, though not essential to the argument,

will tend to illustrate still more strongly the distinction between delirium tremens, and the paroxysm of intoxication. It has been said that drunkenness does not impair the judgment, except as it inflames the passions, and exhibits them in a true though stronger light. As, then, violent passion from moral causes furnishes no excuse for the actions committed under its influence, similar excitement from a physical cause ought to be viewed in the same light. “*Ebrietas omne crimen incendit et detegit*,” and if the drunkard is only exhibiting his true character, stripped of the disguise which in his sober intervals he is able to throw over it, he is not the less a moral agent, and answerable for his conduct. Something like this is a strain of argument, adduced seriously, *we presume*, by the learned commentator on the Pandects before quoted. “*Etsi vero tale propositum talisque machiatio præmeditata non est in illis, qui impetu peccant, non tamen dolus in universum deest; nam et homicida impetu peccat, non modo cum justis et cum iniquis doloris impetu, et sub iræ motu ad cædem procedit.*”—*Voet* XLVIII. 10. 1.

Whatever may be thought of the soundness of this philosophy in view of the ebrious paroxysm, it is evident that it does not at all apply to the subject of delirium tremens. *He* exhibits nothing of that exaggerated state of the passions, of that boisterous violence which marks the drunken man; he is timid, watchful and jealous; and much more disposed to apprehend injury from others, than wantonly to inflict it on them. Such

was the state of the individual in the case alluded to, and surely there is none which renders a man more truly and deservedly an object of compassion.

Judging of the case, then, on these principles, we have no hesitation in saying, that the act of the prisoner was the act of a madman. The idea which constantly presented itself to his mind, was that of a plot formed against his life, which placed him in continual and imminent danger. Under this delusion, he threatened his wife with speedy punishment, if she did not desist from her purpose. From these premises he drew the conclusion, that the destruction of his supposed enemies was an act of self-defence, and on this conclusion he acted. No case of mania could be more perfect in all its parts, or present a stronger claim to forbearance and mercy.

We conclude, then, that the law which makes the drunken man responsible for his actions is, both in its principle and its policy, wholly inapplicable to the case of the maniac a potu ; and that the latter is entitled to all the privileges which madness, under any circumstances, can confer on its unhappy subject. We would add what we consider an equally important inference, that the treatment of this form of mania ought to be regulated on the same principles as that of any other. The case above cited is a melancholy proof that maniacs of this description require the constant vigilance of friends, to prevent them from doing mischief to themselves or those near them. We are satisfied that the amount of care

bestowed is in many instances wholly insufficient, and that great hazards are frequently incurred from indulging the notion that the subjects of this delirium are altogether harmless. There are two rules in regard to persons in this situation, which ought to be rigidly adhered to ; one, that they be never suffered to go abroad alone—and secondly, that they should never be left in the care of female relatives. That both these precautions are often neglected with impunity, we are well aware ; but this by no means disproves the existence of the danger ; and the occurrence, in a single instance, of the horrible consequences above related, affords a warning which we hope will not be disregarded.

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SILLIMAN'S JOURNAL.

WE acknowledge the receipt of the last No. of this important and useful work. It is truly a most splendid production. We are not in the habit of using superlatives, but without them we can give no opinion of the work before us. We rejoice to learn that the late appeal of the Editor to the public, has been the means of adding 250 names to his subscription list ; and that the Journal will now be continued. A periodical which does so much honor to the country, ought not, however, to be barely supported. Two hundred subscribers more would complete the number of 1000, with which the work might go on without embarrassment, and a liberal compensation allowed for the able productions it sends forth into the world of science.

## SMELLING BOTTLES.

THERE are few persons who have not noticed that within a few months smelling bottles of a new form, and containing salts of a fine flavor, have been found in the shops of our apothecaries. An account of these salts is given on our 566th page, in an article extracted from the Journal of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

This new periodical appears to be conducted with great ability by Dr. Benjamin Ellis, of Philadelphia, assisted by other professional gentlemen. It contains a deal of pharmaceutical intelligence, of great value to Physicians as well as Apothecaries ;—but of the latter, there ought not, we hope there will not be one in the country who does not avail himself of the information contained in this work.

## ANATOMICAL DISSECTION.

THE following remarks appeared in a late No. of the BOSTON TRAVELLER. They evince a degree of light in the mind of the Editor,—like evidences of which we would gladly see in the conductors of all our newspapers. The sentiment has been often expressed in this Journal, that a better policy in the laws respecting dissection must begin with the people ; and when we see Editors of newspapers and other popular publications, coming forward with wise and enlightened views on this subject, we cannot but believe that the people generally will soon be better informed, and think and feel and act as becomes those who, as *individuals*, are deeply and *personally* interested in the cul-

tivation of a correct knowledge of human anatomy ;—a knowledge, without which there can be no such thing as medical or surgical skill,—without which disease must get the better of our remedies, and the lives of our patients must be sacrificed to common accidents, and comparatively trivial disorders.

“ So much excitement and strong prejudice has been created in various places by the disinterment of bodies recently deceased for anatomical purposes, that all friends of good order and reasonable law will willingly aid in preventing among us the growth of a body of individuals, whose chief business shall be to violate the sepulchres of the dead. In Europe, as recent shocking narratives have proved, owing to a want of some legal mode of providing sufficient supplies, or to some other cause, a band of resurrectionists has grown up, composed of the most reckless and hardened wretches, who have not hesitated to commit murder to prosecute their unhallowed purpose.

“ That the slightest encouragement may not be extended to body stealers,—that the sepulchres of the dead may be preserved inviolate, and the feelings of the living be spared a pang, the State Medical Society have earnestly applied themselves “ to consider if any change can be effected in the laws of the Commonwealth, in relation to human dissection.” A vigilant committee has been appointed, and a circular on the subject has been printed and sent to physicians generally, throughout the State. It is expected the subject will in some way come before the legislature, at its next session, and a petition be presented for a change of its existing statutes.

“ Some of the representatives have imbibed the popular prejudice, and would view with something like horror any legal provision for favoring

the dissections of the schools. But we are convinced there is no alternative, in order to obviate the difficulties and dangers which now oppose the practical study of Anatomy, and to preserve the peace of individuals and of society; and therefore hope the gentlemen of the Legislature, before their next session, will give the subject due attention, and if possible divest themselves of that feeling which has blinded the community to the importance of the desired knowledge, and retarded the progress of medical science in this country."

**Phlegmasia Dolens.**—Dr. Lee, of Argyll Street, a sound and experienced pathologist, and one of the most rising accoucheurs in the metropolis, has published a paper in the last volume of the Medico-chirurgical Transactions, which at length completely proves this formidable disease to depend on an inflammation in the large veins of the groin. But we understand that this excellent physician has gone considerably further, and that he is in possession of the history of a fatal case, with the preparation, which demonstrates beyond doubt that the inflammation originates in the veins of the uterus, and from them spreads to those of the groin.

This important discovery very satisfactorily accounts for the violent fever and other symptoms which attend the disease.—*Gaz. of Health.*

**Partial Palsy cured by Strychnia locally applied.**—The subject of this case was an habitual drunkard, aged 36 years. He had lost the power of the left forearm and hand ten days previously. The sensation of the parts was perfect, but the mobility much impaired. There was no headache. Over a vesicated surface on the back of the forearm, one-eighth of a grain of strychnia was sprinkled. The dose of the medicine was increased by doubling the

quantity every day, until it amounted to one grain, after which a fourth of a grain was to be added. The improvement was manifest from the second week, and the patient, without having experienced any uneasy symptom, was dismissed cured at the end of five weeks from the commencement of the treatment.

In another patient, affected with paralysis of the flexor muscles, and diminished sensation of the right leg, a cure was effected in the course of six weeks.—*N. A. Med. & Surg. J.*

**Pregnancy after Amputation of the Cervix Uteri.**—M. Lisfranc announced to the Academy of Medicine that two other females (Vide N. A. Med. and Surg. Journal, Vol. II. p. 14 and 420) who were pregnant after amputation of the neck of the uterus, have been happily delivered at the full period of uterogestation. One who, anteriorly to the operation, had very rapid labors, was in labor forty-eight hours: in the other, who was in labor for the first time, two hours of pain were sufficient for the expulsion of the fetus. No bad consequences resulted, and the health of each female was excellent.—*Journ. Generale.*

**Adhesion of the Placenta to the Head of the Fetus.**—From the Nouv. Bibliotheq. for May, we learn that M. Lauray has transmitted to the Royal Academy of Medicine the details of the following case:—A labor being fortunately terminated by turning the fetus, which had presented an arm, the placenta was found adherent to the hairy scalp of the child. The head was flattened at its anterior and superior part, where the os frontis was wanting. A projection of the brain, covered by the integuments, was noticed in the situation of the right eye, which last was wanting. There was a hare lip, &c. &c. The infant lived thirty-two hours. No attempt was made to separate the placenta from the head, to

which it adhered to some extent, to the fore part, to the left and to the centre (top) of the hairy scalp. No explanation was offered either as to the cause or manner of the adhesion. The liquor amnii had flowed in abundance a short time before the accouchement, and gestation was not attended by any remarkable circumstance.—*N. A. Med. & Surg. Jour.*

**Punctured Wounds.**—Dr. James Fountain, of Westchester, New York, believing that a state of irritation always precedes the state of inflammation in punctured wounds, maintains that the treatment, immediately after the accident, should be predicated on this principle, which he says experience confirms. Hence he advises local and general stimuli: of the former, he prefers heat with moisture. A tobacco poultice is particularly recommended.—*N. Y. Med. and Phys. Journal.*

**Wound of the Brachial Artery.**—Mr. Smith, Surgeon to the Bristol Hospital, details two cases, and alludes to two others, in which, under well regulated pressure, a wound, by a lancet, of the brachial artery healed, no aneurism being formed. In these cases the vein was not punctured.—*Medico-Chirur. Rev.*

**Mortality among Leeches during Storms.**—That atmospheric changes have a remarkable influence on

leeches, is a well established fact. In 1825, M. Derheims, of St. Omer, ascribes the almost sudden death of them, at the approach of or during storms, to the coagulation of the blood of these creatures, caused by the impression of the atmospheric elasticity. This opinion, which at that time was the result of theory, he confirmed in the month of March last, by direct experiment.—*Ann. des Sciences d'Observation.*

**Crystallization of Iodine.**—During the course of his researches on the combinations of Iodine and Arsenic, M. A. Plisson has ascertained that Iodine crystallizes in acute octahedrons and in rhomboids, and that it may be obtained under those two forms, by exposing ioduretted hydroodic acid. He also remarked that iodine assumes rhomboidal forms in the upper part of a flask, in which ioduret of arsenic has been kept.—*Ann. de Chim.*

**The Color of the Sea**—is ascribed by Sir Humphry Davy, in part at least, to the presence of iodine and bromine, which its waters certainly contain, and which result perhaps from the decomposition of marine vegetables. These two substances, dissolved in a small quantity of water, give a yellow tint, and this tint, mingled with the blue tint of pure water, may produce the sea green.—*Salmonia.*

#### WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, ENDING OCTOBER 9.

Date.	Sex	Age.	Disease.	Date.	Sex	Age.	Disease.
Oct. 1.	M.	18 mo	measles		F.	12 mo	measles
	M.	14	lung fever		M.	5 yrs	do.
2.	F.	24 d	infantile	6.	F.	58	consumption
	F.	8 mo	dropsey in the head		F.	3	measles
3.	F.	2 yrs	convulsions		F.	5 mo	convulsions
4.	M.	65	dropsey		F.	7	lung fever
	M.	2 1-2	unknown	7.	M.	5 yrs	measles
	M.	45	do.		F.	12 mo	do.
	F.	96	old age		M.	19	do.
	M.	15 mo	infantile		F.	62 yrs	unknown
	F.	40 yrs	consumption		M.	32	scarlet fever
	M.	2 d	unknown	8.	M.	24	unknown
	M.	26 yrs	typhous fever		F.		consumption
5.	F.	2 1-4	complaint in the throat	9.	F.	22 mo	inflammation in the bowels
	F.	77	old age		Males, 14—Females, 16. Total, 30.		
	M.	6 w	unknown				

VERTISEMENTS.

CONSOLIDATED COPAIVA.

**C**OPAIVA may be given in this form without the least inconvenience. Neither communicating taste, nor imparting odor to the breath, it is also retained without the least disquietude or uneasiness to the stomach; and I am informed by Dr. Rousseau, that in large doses it does not purge."—*Phil. Journal of Med. Sciences.*

See an article in this Journal, Aug. 18th.

OIL OF BLACK PEPPER.

This is a much more active preparation of Piperine. One drop is fully equal to six grains of the latter. It is a valuable adjunct to Quinine. One or two drops, added to six grains, will greatly increase the efficacy of that medicine.

For sale by NATHAN JARVIS, 188 Washington Street, where Physicians will find medicines at as reasonable terms as at any place in Boston.

Aug. 25.

eopif.

LEECHES, CHIRAYITA HERB,  
&c.

**E**BENEZER WIGHT, 46 Milk Street, has made such arrangements as will enable him to be constantly supplied with the genuine *Medicinal Leech*. He has now on hand some of very large size, and in prime order.

Just received, by late arrivals, a few pounds of *Chirayita Herb*,—Concentrated Compound Decoction of *Sarsaparilla*,—Laurel Water,—Silver Wire Tooth Brushes, from the manufactory of James Prout, of London.

Also, from the manufactory of Shephard, of London, the following variety of *Medicated Lozenges*, viz.:—Coltsfoot—Rhubarb—Soda—Tolu—Heartburn—Parergic—Magnesia—Steel—Camomile—Nitre—Cayenne—Opium—Fruit—Ginger—Annised—Ipecacuanha—Lemon—Rose—Peppermint and Sulphur.

\* \* Strict personal attention paid to Physicians' prescriptions, and family medicines.

Oct. 6. eopif.

MORBID ANATOMY.

**C**ARTER & HENDEE have just received,—The Morbid Anatomy of the Stomach, Bowels and Liver; illustrated by a Series of Plates from Drawings

after Nature, with explanatory letter press, and a Summary of the Symptoms of the Acute and Chronic Affections of the above-named Organs. By JOHN ARMSTRONG, M.D.

The above work will be completed in six numbers, at \$6.00 each. Three numbers are already published. Subscriptions received by C. & H.

Oct. 6.

2am3m

**A**TREATISE on the Scrofulous Disease, by C.G. HUFELAND, Physician to the King of Prussia, &c., translated from the French of M. Bousquet, by Charles D. Meigs, M.D., is just received and for sale by CARTER & HENDEE.

Sept. 8.

**C**ARTER & HENDEE have just published,—The Constitution of Man, considered in Relation to External Objects. By GEORGE COMBE.

*From the Preface to the American edition.*

"Mr. Combe's work should be placed with those, of which so many within a few years have appeared, which are devoted to the all-absorbing topic of Education. It treats of moral, intellectual, and physical education. This is not formally done under so many distinct heads. But the whole course of reasoning of the author, and the whole array of all his illustrations, have it always obviously in view to show how the highest cultivation of each of these may be most surely brought about.

"The publishers have printed this edition from a belief that there is much in the work to interest the community.

"It has a novelty to reward the general inquirer, and it presents the well known under novel aspects. There is one class amongst us who may study it with much advantage. Scholars are referred to, a class here too small to form a distinct order with habits of their own, and who insensibly fall into those which, although not mischievous, to the multitude on the score of health, too often make ill health the portion of the sedentary student, and bring upon him premature decay.—To all classes it is recommended, and the various learning and acuteness of the author well fit him to write a book which addresses its instructions to the whole community."

Sept. 8.

Published weekly, by JOHN COTTON, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, three dollars and a half if not paid within three months, and four dollars if not paid within the year. The postage for this is the same as for other newspapers.